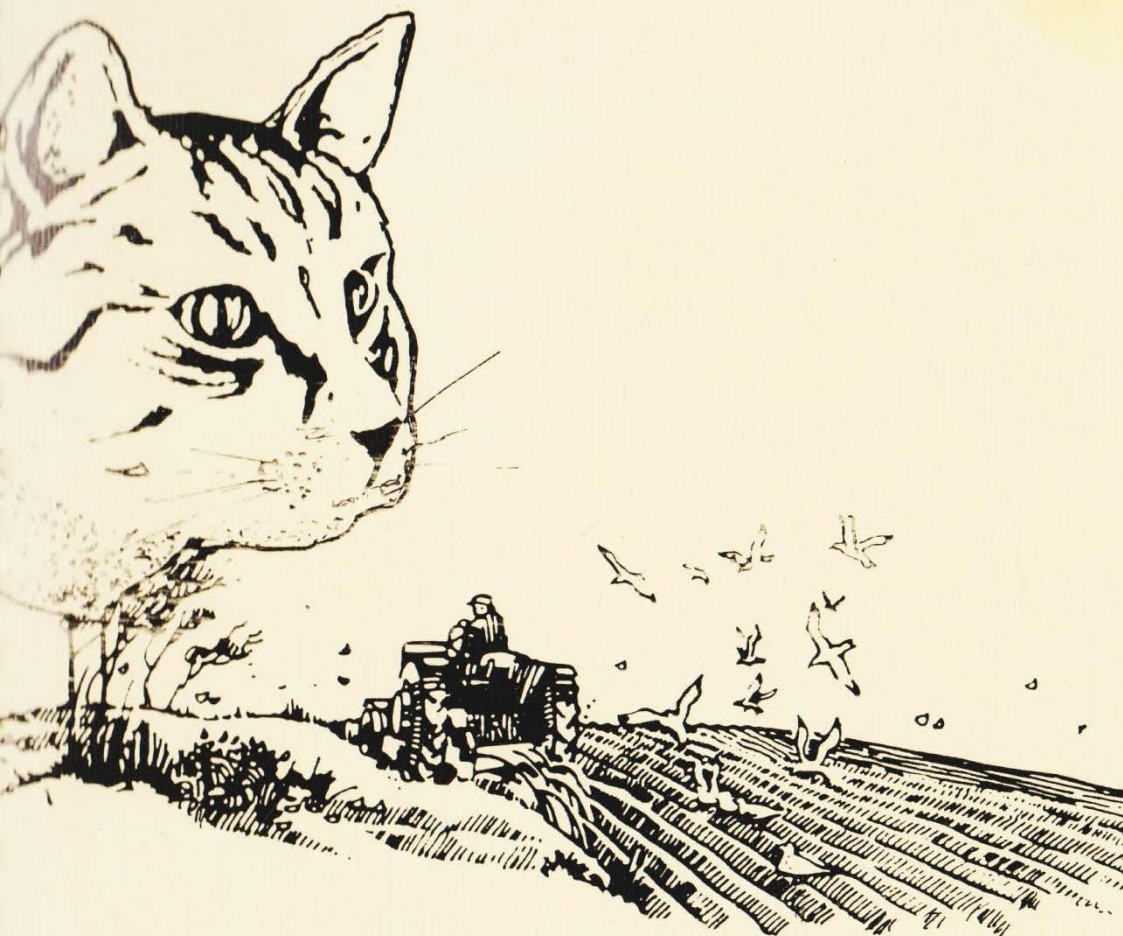


AMBROSE

The Farm Cat.



THE COMPLETE CAL SERIES.

MY FRIEND ROBERT - For the non or near-non reader. A forty session, large font introductory work which will get even the most uncertain reader started.

AMBROSE, THE FARM CAT - A natural follow on to the previous work or a suitable starting point for those with reading ages less than 7.4 and a chronological age of 9 or over.

THE KITE - A gradually unfolding adventure story to follow the previous work and with more demanding vocabulary. This is also a suitable starting point for pupils of ten or over with reading deficits of three or more years.

To bring pupils reading age into line with their chronological age and to introduce them to the habit of enjoying 'a good read' we have the publisher's permission to support four of Bill Ridgeway's well established adventure stories from the BLOCKBUSTER series with our own software. The titles which we have chosen for succesful KITE readers are as follows:

CITY OUT OF TIME - DEVIL DRIVER

LARSON'S RUN - SQUID

Introduction.

This is much more than a reading scheme. It is a *management system* developed to make it possible for one teacher to deliver a completely remedial programme to a large number of pupils with reading deficits in excess of three years and with much less effort than it takes to manage many other reading programmes which achieve little or nothing.

Providing this system is used as directed, the following are guaranteed:

1. That pupils will develop greater reading fluency.
2. That they will substantially increase their sight vocabulary.
3. That left to right scanning skills will improve dramatically.
4. That measurable improvements in reading age will occur in a relatively short period of time.

These claims have already been substantiated in extensive formal school trials and in the hundreds of schools now using this series. It is entirely probable that this series will contribute more to the alleviation of reading disability than any other currently available. A significant feature of the programme is that it routinely provides failing pupils with the opportunity to develop higher level reading skills.

HOW TO MANAGE THE CAL READING SCHEME.

The scheme is managed in two parts. Essentially, the pupil prepares at the computer *on his/her own without the active intervention or supervision of any adult* and then at some time during the same day, reads the prepared passage to a pair-partner. Because the pupil prepares for the practical reading session, the reading material can be of a higher and much more demanding standard than would otherwise be possible and the pupil can also be expected to make many fewer errors. A further important consequence of the system is that pupils face each succeeding reading session with an increasing level of self-confidence and competence. Since the quality and quantity of reading is determined by the programme and not by the link partner, link partners need not be teachers but can be parents, ancillaries, dinner ladies, library ladies, prefects, caretakers etc. Remedial or learning support staff can concentrate on the business of monitoring the scheme and establishing and maintaining pair-partnerships. I recommend very strongly that a pair partner should be linked to one pupil only and that no pupil should be permitted to tackle more than one chapter at any one session. I also recommend that all non-teaching pair-partners should be given some training in listening to a pupil read.

THE 'PREP' SESSION.

Each participating pupil should be taught how to load the disc into the computer and summon the appropriate chapter. He or she should then be shown how to progress the word focus through the chapter by pressing the spacebar and how to

summon the computer voicing for any unfamiliar words by repeated pressing of any other key.

Pupils should be instructed that they will not be able to decipher unfamiliar words from the voicing but that they should LOOK at the word while repeating the voicing a number of times. The 'voice' simply supports the all-important visual and contextual clues.

By chapter three, each participating pupil will have learned how to divide their attention between the visual and the auditory prompt and be able to carry out the full preparatory session alone. At the completion on the 'prep' session, the computer will carry out a test and retest of the words which caused the pupil some difficulty so that he/she will have had a very thorough preparation for the practical reading session which should take place later on the same day. If at all possible, the computer should be situated in a relatively quiet corner of the class and it is desirable and helpful to fit a lightweight headset of the Walkman variety.

THE PRACTICAL READING SESSIONS.

The pupil should be linked to a pair-partner who will undertake to hear him/her read one chapter of the book every day at a pre-arranged time which is suitable, both to the pair-partner and the pupil's curriculum. This should be a reliable arrangement which is unlikely to breakdown and no partner should be linked to more than one pupil. Pair-partners should encourage their pupil to prepare thoroughly at the computer and repeat the 'prep' if necessary so that they will know every word.

Chapter 1.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. What's the cat's name in this story?
 2. Is it an old cat or a young cat?
 3. Where does Ambrose live?
 4. Where does Ambrose sleep?
 5. What does Ambrose like to do every day?
-

POST READ SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words

- - - ner

- - - ket

- - - chen

Chapter 1.

Ambrose is a young cat. Just a kitten really but he is very good at catching mice. He lives on a farm so there are always plenty of mice around for him to catch. Ambrose sleeps on a thick woolly blanket in a big basket which is kept in a corner of the kitchen. He has a very happy life with lots of friends to play with. Because he lives on a farm, there is always plenty of milk to drink and plenty of other animals to play with. The farmer has three sheep dogs which Ambrose likes to visit every day and sometimes when they are not working with the sheep, they let him walk around the farm with them. There are lots of animals Ambrose likes to visit.

Chapter 2.

PRE-READING SUGGESTIONS.

1. What time does the farmer get up?
 2. How does he greet the farmer's wife?
 3. What are the children called?
 4. What does he get in the morning?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words;

mor - - - -

ag - - - - -

noi - -

Chapter 2.

Every morning when the big clock in the front hall strikes five times, the farmer and his wife get up to start the day's work. When the farmer's wife comes into the kitchen, Ambrose dashes across the kitchen floor to greet her. He rubs himself against her leg and purrs loudly. Then he follows her around the kitchen until she pours some fresh creamy milk into his bowl. When she sits down at the table for a cup of tea, Ambrose jumps up on to her lap and she strokes him while she sips her tea. The farmer's children, Mary and Peter, are always in a hurry in the morning. They always make a lot of noise before they go off to school in the bus.

Chapter 3.

PRE-READING SUGGESTIONS.

1. When is it quiet in the farm house?
 2. What does he do when the children leave?
 3. Where does he visit first?
 4. What does he see there?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS

Find these words;

1. - - - ckens
2. - - - - selves
3. - - ways
4. - - side

Chapter 3.

When the children go off to school in the bus things are quiet again and Ambrose begins his morning stroll around the farm. He always visits the chickens first. He likes to listen to the clucking noises they make and the little baby chicks always run to their mothers when he goes near them. The big rooster sometimes lifts his wings up and chases Ambrose but of course Ambrose is much too quick for him. The chickens have a special field all to themselves with wooden huts to live in. Each hut has a small ladder which leads up to a round door. Ambrose has never been inside the chicken huts but he would love to see inside one.

Chapter 4.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. Where does he like to visit most?
 2. What does he do on his way there?
 3. Where do the birds nest?
 4. What do the birds do when they see him?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words;

cr - - - -

br - - - - -

some - - - - -

he - - -

Chapter 4.

One of the places Ambrose likes to visit most is the stream which flows through the farm. On his way to the stream, he crawls through a thick hedge and tries to surprise one of the birds which live in nests there. The birds always sit in the very top branches which are much too high for Ambrose to reach. He loves to watch them flapping their wings with fright when they see him in the long grass under the hedge. Ambrose can see their nests and sometimes he can hear their tiny chicks but the nests are always in the high parts of the hedge and well out of his reach. There are lots of long, sharp thorns in the hedge.

Chapter 5.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. How many ponies are there?
 2. What does he like to see them do?
 3. Is he afraid of them?
 4. What kind of noise do the ponies make?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find three words with a double letter in them.

Chapter 5.

On his way to the stream, Ambrose always passes through the pony field where there are five brown ponies. The ponies don't seem to mind him walking across their field at all. He loves to hear them snorting and see them stretching their long necks to nibble at the short grass. Sometimes they stretch down to sniff at Ambrose and because they are so much bigger than he is, this frightens him a little bit. Ambrose pretends he is not afraid of them and just sniffs back. He gets a little scared when they gallop round the field chasing each other, snorting and making a loud drumming noise with their hooves.

Chapter 6.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. Does he stay long at the stream?
 2. Can he jump the stream?
 3. What does he see there?
 4. Anything else?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words;

str - - -

- - brose

pl - - - -

- - - zing

Chapter 6.

The stream that runs between the pony field and the big corn field is the place that Ambrose likes to visit the most. Sometimes he only makes a quick visit to the chickens and the pony field but he always spends a long time by the stream. It's not a very wide stream and Ambrose can jump right over it without getting his feet wet. There is always plenty to see at the stream; lots of little waterfalls which make a nice splashing sound; lots of little flying insects buzzing around on top of the little pools; lots of birds playing; lots of little fish darting about between the stones and now and again, a really big fish jumps out of the water and grabs an insect.

Chapter 7.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. How long does he stay at the stream?
 2. Does he catch birds there?
 3. Why can't he catch the flying insects?
 4. What does he see diving there?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words:

sur - - - - -

thr - - - h

- - - - ects

sw - - - - ng

Chapter 7.

Sometimes when it's a hot, sunny day Ambrose plays by the stream, for an hour or more. He creeps slowly through the long grass on the banks trying to surprise one of the birds but they always manage to fly away just before he jumps. Sometimes he sits on a large smooth rock trying to catch one of the small fish with his paws but they are always too quick for him. Sometimes he jumps up in the air, trying to catch one of the big flying insects which buzz around the stream but they always seem to know when he is going to jump and his paws just flash through empty air. Sometimes he sees a big fat frog diving into the water and then swimming to the other side.

Chapter 8.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. How many cows are in the field?
 2. What kind of cows are they?
 3. What colour are they?
 4. Do the cows chase him?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words;

tra - - - - -

fl- - - - -

bo - - - -

wal - - - -

Chapter 8.

Ambrose always passes through the cow field on the other side of the stream on his way to the big barn where the tractors are kept. There are about twenty big brown and white milking cows in the field. When they see him walking through their field they sometimes stand still and stare at him. But sometimes they chase him right across to the big wooden gate. Of course Ambrose is always much too quick for them and he can slip under the bottom bar of the gate long before they have any chance of reaching him. Now and again, if they are lying down on the grass having a rest, Ambrose will go right up to them and they just sit there, flicking their tails at the flies.

Chapter 9.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. After the cows, where does he go?
 2. Is it an open-sided barn?
 3. What is kept in this barn?
 4. What does he do to the tractor tyres?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find three number words.

Chapter 9.

When Ambrose gets fed up playing in the cow field, he slips out under the gate and makes for the big barn where all the farm machines are kept. Two sides of the barn are wide open so he can get in without any problem. There are always four or five machines in the barn and sometimes one of the farm hands works there all day fixing them. Some of the machines have big rubber tyres and Ambrose loves to stand up on his back legs and scratch at them with his front claws. Some of the farm machines have long sharp steel spikes and Ambrose knows its best to keep well away from them. He can walk right underneath most of the machines because they are huge.

Chapter 10.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. Why does he lie on top of the tractors?
 2. What can he see from the top of the tractors?
 3. How far can he see?
 4. What does he see the farmer's wife doing?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words:

br - - - - t.

clim -

gr - - - d

fal - - -

Chapter 10.

When the tractors are brought into the barn straight from the fields their engines are still warm. Ambrose loves to climb up on top of them and to stretch out on the engine cover and soak up the heat. He even falls asleep there sometimes. When he is up on top of a really big tractor he can look a long way down to the ground and see everything that's going on. He sometimes sees tiny mice running along the wooden beams and he can look down on to the big blackbirds which come in to peck up any corn that has fallen from the sacks. He can see all the way back to the farm house and he can see the farmer's wife hanging out her washing or cleaning windows.

Chapter 11.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. When is the barn a good place to play ?
 2. What does he like watching from up high?
 3. Can he see his stream from the barn?
 4. Does the stream flood over?
-

POST READING SUGESTIONS.

Find three words ending in -es

Chapter 11.

The barn where the farm machines are kept is always a good place for Ambrose to play but it's a very good place to play when it's raining. From his safe, dry perch high up on the engine of a tractor, he loves to watch the rain pelting down when there's a real storm. Big brown puddles appear in the deep holes which the tractors make as they drive into the barn and Ambrose loves to watch the rain splishing and splashing in them. If he can get up on top of one of the biggest machines, he can see right over to the stream where he plays on warm days. When it's raining really hard, the stream flows much faster and sometimes it even spills out on to the fields on both sides.

Chapter 12.

PRE -READING QUESTIONS.

1. What is the second barn used for?
 2. Why does the farmer need hay?
 3. What shape are the hay bundles?
 4. What game does he play with the hay?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words;

vi - - -

ev - - -

- - ves

ve - -

Chapter 12.

The barn next to the one where the tractors are kept is also a place which Ambrose likes to visit every day. This barn is used for storing the hay and straw that the farmer needs to feed his cattle in winter when the grass stops growing in the fields. The hay is made into big square bundles which are stacked high on top of each other. Ambrose loves to jump up on them and climb to the very top, leaping from bale to bale. If he misses and slides back to the bottom again, he never hurts himself because the hay is so soft and springy. Sometimes he slides down into one of the dark spaces between the bales of hay and this always frightens him.

Chapter 13.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. Does he get close to the roof of the barn?
 2. What can he hear there?
 3. What does he do when fresh hay arrives?
 4. What kind of owl lives there?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words;

r - - - t

h - - - est

h - - - d

h - - - s

Chapter 13.

When he is right on top of the highest bales of straw in the barn, Ambrose is very close to the tin roof and when it is raining hard, he can hear the loud thump of every raindrop beating down on it. But of course, he is safe and dry. On warm days, if he keeps very still, he can hear the mice scurrying along the small spaces between the bales where they sometimes make their nests. He has never seen the big barn owl that lives in one dark corner of the roof but he has heard it lots of times. He knows too from the sounds he hears that there are some baby owls in its nest. When the farmer brings fresh hay to the barn on the tractor, Ambrose keeps well out of the way.

Chapter 14.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. How do the men stack the hay bales?
 2. Why do they leave spaces between the bales?
 3. What does Ambrose think the spaces are for?
 4. What does he do when the men finish their work?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find four words beginning with 'th'

Chapter 14.

When the tractor pulls the hay cart up to the barn Ambrose runs quickly to the side to watch the men. One man climbs up on the hay and another one throws the bales up to him one at a time. He stacks them side by side and on top of each other but he always leaves a small space between each bale. Ambrose was sure that this was so that the mice could get in to build their nests. If they would only make the spaces a little bit wider, Ambrose could get in after them with less trouble. The new hay always smelled so sweet and fresh and Ambrose liked the new hay best. When the men finish their work, he always stretches himself out on the bales of fresh new hay.

Chapter 15.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. Are all the pigs kept in one pen?
 2. Which pigs does Ambrose like best?
 3. What sound do the piglets make?
 4. How many pigs has Peter?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Draw a picture of Ambrose in the pig shed

or

Ask the pupil to spell some of the familiar words from this chapter - suggest trying to remember what the words LOOK like.

Chapter 15.

The pig shed was quite an interesting place to visit. There were lots of pig pens, some with just one great fat pig, some with two or three and some with lots of tiny, squealing piglets. Ambrose liked the piglets which were pink and had little curly tails. He didn't like the smell of the pig shed at first but after a while he didn't seem to notice it any more. The pen at the end of the row had three quite big pigs in it. Ambrose knew that these were Peter's own pigs and that he might come back to see them later when Peter came to feed and clean them. The pigs were not very friendly and paid no attention to him at all. But that didn't worry Ambrose too much.

Chapter 16.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. Where did Ambrose visit in this chapter?
 2. Why did he go back to the farmhouse?
 3. How does he get back to the farmhouse?
 4. Where did he wait for the farmer's wife?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find four words more than five letters.

Chapter 16.

The pig shed was always the last place Ambrose visited before he went back to the farm house. He knows that by this time the farmer's wife will have finished her morning jobs and would be getting ready to fill up his dish with his first proper meal of the day. But Ambrose has his own special way of getting to the farmhouse kitchen. First he would climb up on to the roof of the pig shed and then walk along the top of it until he came to the small hut where the farmer kept most of his small tools. He would jump down on to the slanting roof of this hut and then up on to the roof of the stables. From here he could keep a watch out for the farmer's wife.

Chapter 17.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. Where would his meal be left?
 2. What did he do while waiting?
 3. What did he see while waiting?
 4. What else could he see?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words:

r - - f

lo - - ies

sp - - d

sm - - -

Chapter 17.

Sitting high up on the roof of the stable, Ambrose can keep an eye out for the farmer's wife. He knew that as soon as she was ready, the kitchen door would open and his bowl would be put down inside the porch. While he was waiting for his meal, he would watch all the comings and goings on the farm. He was so high up that he could look right into the two big oak trees and see the cornfields near the road and the cars and lorries rushing past at great speed. He could see the farm pond and the two swans and the ducks that swam on it all day long. He could see the pig sheds and the small chickens' field.

Chapter 18.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. Did Ambrose get visitors on his roof?
 2. Could he catch the squirrels?
 3. Name some of his visitors?
 4. What was he waiting for on his roof?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find three creature words.

Chapter 18.

Sometimes when Ambrose was sitting quite happily on the stable roof waiting for his morning meal, other animals would visit him. The two grey squirrels which lived in the old oak trees behind the stable would often scamper across the roof with their long fluffy tails sticking out behind them. Ambrose knew that he could never catch them. They could climb up the trees so quickly and move across the roof so easily that all he could do was to hiss at them. Sometimes great blackbirds and tiny sparrows would come and sit on the roof but they always flew off as soon as they spotted Ambrose. He wished he could fly too but forgot them the moment the farmer's wife appeared with his meal.

Chapter 19.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. What did Ambrose do after eating?
 2. Where did he sleep on warm days?
 3. Where did he sleep on cold days?
 4. What did he do when he woke up?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words;

- - tch - -

- - tt - -

- - rch

gr - - ing

Chapter 19.

Ambrose liked to have a short sleep after his morning meal. If it was a cold day, he would sometimes slip into the kitchen and settle down on his blanket in his own cosy basket. On warm days, he liked to stretch out in the sun up on the stable roof or on the roof of the kitchen porch for an hour or so. When he woke up he would always visit the farmer's wife and rub himself against her leg as if to thank her for the nice meal. Then he would set off on his trip around the rest of the farm. This would take him over the fields where the sheep were kept and down to the cornfields where he could chase the rabbits into their burrows.

Chapter 20.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. What was his first visit after eating?
 2. What did he see on the pond?
 3. What did he like seeing the ducks do?
 4. Were the ducks noisy or not?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words;

al - - - -

en - - - - -

mom - - -

squ - - - - -

Chapter 20.

Ambrose always stopped at the duck pond because there was so much to see there. Two large swans lived on the pond and Ambrose enjoyed watching them swimming together and making hardly a ripple on the water. The ducks of course, were very noisy and were always making a splash as they chased after each other. Ambrose likes to be there when the farmer's wife comes to find them. The moment she puts her hand in the feed bucket, they would come racing across the water making a loud quacking noise. He liked to see them diving to catch a bit of the food which she had thrown into the water. He also liked to see them squabbling over a piece of food.

Chapter 21.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. Did he like the duck's food?
 2. Did he like the sheep's food?
 3. What did the sheep usually eat?
 4. What shape were the ram's horns?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find three words with a double letter in them.

Chapter 21.

Ambrose could not understand why the ducks were so keen to get at the food which the farmer's wife gave them. He had tasted it himself one day and he didn't like it one little bit. He was very glad that the food she made for him was not the same as the food she gave the ducks. He has tasted the food which the farmer gave to the sheep and he didn't like that either but the sheep seemed to like it. When he passed through the sheep field, they were usually eating the short grass that grew there and didn't bother much about him at all. There was one big ram with long curly horns which didn't like Ambrose coming too close to the sheep so he kept away from them.

Chapter 22.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. What were the cornfields like to him?
 2. What happened his first time there?
 3. What could he hear in the cornfields?
 4. What saved him from getting lost?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words:

- - - ed

- - - - ed

- - - - ed

- - ved

Chapter 22.

Ambrose had to walk through the sheep fields to get to the corn fields which was the place he liked best of all. The corn fields were like big jungles to Ambrose. When he went into them for the very first time he nearly got lost altogether. He walked round and round, pushing his way through the tall stalks of corn but everything looked the same to him. All he could see were the tall corn stalks pointing up to the sky. He could hear the rabbits running away as he got close to them and sometimes he could even see a fluffy white tail vanishing through the corn but that did not help him at all. Only the sound of the traffic saved him from getting completely lost.

Chapter 23.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. How did he find his way out of the corn?
 2. What happens when he hears the bus?
 3. What did he do in the cornfield?
 4. Did he catch many rabbits?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words:

- - - ted

sou - -

qu - - - -

ra - - - -

Chapter 23.

When Ambrose wanted to get out of the corn fields now, all he had to do was to walk towards the sound of the cars and buses on the main road and he was safely out of his jungle. Most days he would play among the corn for a long time. When he heard the sound of the school bus stopping at the farm gate and the voices of his best friends Mary and Peter coming home from school, he would dash out to meet them. He spent most of his time moving quietly through the corn trying to catch a rabbit or a field mouse by surprise. Sometimes he would get quite close to a rabbit and then chase after it but they were always too quick for him.

Chapter 24.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. Where does he meet the children?
 2. Who sometimes carries Ambrose?
 3. What do the children talk about?
 4. Does Mary like school?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words;

usu - - - -

c - - - d - - n

k - - c - - n

t - - k - - g

Chapter 24.

When the children come home from school, Ambrose usually meets them at the farm gate. Sometimes Mary would ask Peter to carry her school bag up to the house and she would pick Ambrose up and carry him like a baby, all the way home. Sometimes he would go for a walk around the farm, taking him with her and talking to him all the way. While the children were having their tea, Ambrose always sat with them in the kitchen. He liked to listen to them telling their mother about the things they had been doing in school all day. Mary seemed to like school a lot and talked about something she called her lessons. Peter was not so keen.

Chapter 25.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. What did the children do after tea?
 2. What does Peter do?
 3. What does Mary do?
 4. Does Ambrose go with them?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find three words with a double letter.

Chapter 25.

After tea, both children had jobs to do on the farm and Ambrose always goes with them. Mary has to feed the chickens and then muck out the stable where the ponies are kept. Peter has to look after the three pigs that he has had since they were born. Their dad always comes to see how they are getting on and to make sure that they do their jobs properly. When Mary feeds the chickens, she scatters the food around the yard and when Ambrose is with her, she always scatters a little bit of the corn over him. The chickens dash around screeching and pecking up every grain of corn they can find. Ambrose watches every move they make but keeps out of their way.

Chapter 26.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. What does Mary do with the stable muck?
 2. What does Ambrose do?
 3. How many mice does he catch?
 4. What does Mary use for the stable muck?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find two words beginning with 'e'

Chapter 26.

When Mary is mucking out the stables she puts all the muck into a wheelbarrow and pushes it across the farm yard to a big smelly heap where she tips it out. Ambrose walks behind her and listens to her singing. When she has emptied the muck out, he follows her back to the stable where he keeps a sharp look out for mice. There are always mice among the fresh straw which she keeps for the ponies and the moment one appears, Ambrose pounces on it. The mice have no chance of escape unless they climb up to the beams or dash into one of the cracks in the walls. Most days, he will catch at least one mouse in the stables and on a very good day, perhaps three or even four.

Chapter 27.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. When did Ambrose see a rat?
2. What does Peter do in the pig shed?
3. What does Peter do after his job?

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words:

cl - - n

cl - - - s

wa - - -

- - - - gs

Chapter 27.

When Ambrose goes with Peter to clean out the pig pens and feed the pigs, he never finds any mice there but one day he did see a big rat. Peter has to get a bucket of hot water and wash out the pigs' feed bins. Then he has to mix the food for the pigs and fill the feed bins up. The pigs always push each other out of the way to get at the food first and make loud screeching noises. Ambrose never goes right into the pens with Peter. He likes to sit outside and watch him do all the jobs. Peter is very different from Mary. He never sings or talks to Ambrose but when they go into the woods, he climbs trees and walks along walls and does all the kind of things that Ambrose likes.

Chapter 28.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. When do the family have supper?
 2. Where does he sit with Mary?
 3. Does Ambrose like the dark?
 4. Where does Ambrose visit after dark?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words;

- en -

- - - - - en

- - en

- - - - - en

Chapter 28.

Each evening, just as it starts to get dark, the family have their supper around the kitchen table. Ambrose's dish is placed under the table by the sink. Before the children are sent off to bed, Mary will sometimes take him on to her lap and sit by the fire stroking him until its time for her to go upstairs to bed. Ambrose always enjoys this very much. Later, when the children are in bed, he goes out for another stroll round the farm in the dark. He likes the sounds he can hear and he likes to visit a farm nearby where they have lots of cats. But when the farmer's wife calls him, he always dashes back to get into his cosy basket for the night.

Chapter 29.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. What does Ambrose do at night?
 2. Where does he sniff for mice?
 3. Can Ambrose see in the dark?
 4. Can Ambrose hear very well?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words;

- - - - y -

- - - y

- - l - - - - y

e - - - y - - -

Chapter 29.

Ambrose always takes a stroll around the house before he settles down for the night. He sniffs in every corner of the kitchen for the tell-tale smell that a mouse has moved in from the stable or from one of the barns. If he picks up the fresh smell of a mouse he becomes very quiet. He moves silently from one room to another, stopping along the way and pricking up his ears to see if he can hear the slightest scratching sound or see the slightest movement. Even on a very dark night and when everyone is tucked up in bed, Ambrose's sharp eyes can spot the smallest movement and his keen hearing can pick up the tiniest of mouse sounds.

Chapter 30.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. Where did he think there was a mouse?
 2. What could he hear?
 3. Was it a small mouse?
 4. Do you think he will catch the mouse?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words;

st - - - - -

st - - -

st - - - -

st - -

Chapter 30.

Ambrose stopped at the bottom of the stairs. His ears pricked up and he stood very still. His ears twitched a little as he turned his head slowly to peer into the darkness at the top of the stairs. There was the very soft sound of feet scampering across a wooden floor and then silence again. Ambrose put his paw on the first step and stopped to listen again. There was no sound now but he knew that there was a mouse up there somewhere. He took three more steps then stopped to listen again. This time he could hear a faint scratching and his sharp ears told him that this was quite a big mouse and that it was at the end of the passage near the toilet door.

Chapter 31.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. How does Ambrose move?
 2. Can mice hear cats?
 3. Where was the mouse?
 4. What sound did the mouse make?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words;

mo - - -

scr - - - - -

wi - - - - -

spr - - -

Chapter 31.

Ambrose moved slowly to the top of the stairs without making a sound. He knew that mice could hear cats just the same as cats could hear mice and he had to be very sure where the mouse was before he made his final dash. He stopped just below the top step and pushed his nose carefully above the landing floor. If the mouse heard him coming up the stairs, it would be off down one of the cracks in the wooden boards. One tiny scratching sound told Ambrose what he needed to know. The mouse was in the corner by the bathroom door. Ambrose got ready to spring and with one great leap, he was on to it before it had any chance of escaping.

Chapter 32.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. What trouble did Ambrose get into?
 2. Did he ever fall in the pond?
 3. Why was a ladder needed?
 4. Who fetched the ladder?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words;

yo - - -

st - - -

la - - - -

roo - -

Chapter 32.

When Ambrose was a very young kitten, on his trips round the farm he often got into all sorts of trouble. He often got stuck in the spaces between the bales of straw and Mary had to come and get him out. Sometimes when he had climbed too high up on one of the roofs he could not get down without help from Mary or Peter. Once he even fell into the duck pond when he was trying to catch one of the fish and when the farmer got him out he was in a very sorry state. Once, when one of the farm dogs chased him up a tree, he was stuck there all day and only got down when Peter fetched a long ladder and came up to get him. Once he even got stuck in a big machine.

Chapter 33.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. How high can he climb now?
 2. Where must he not go?
 3. What must he not do to the dogs?
 4. What is his job?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words;

al - - - - -

tr - - - - -

dan - - - - -

fa - - - -

Chapter 33.

Now that Ambrose is a little older, he can climb as high as he likes and he is always able to get down when he wants. He knows where he can go and where he can't go. He knows that he must keep away from the pond and that although the ducks can swim on top of the water, he can't. He knows too that although the farm dogs are his friends, he musn't get them angry. He knows the places where he can have some fun and the places where he musn't go or the farmer will be angry. He knows that tractors and other farm machines are very dangerous when they are moving and that he must keep out of their way. He knows it is his job to keep mice out of the farm house.

Chapter 34.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. Where does he visit?
 2. Are the dogs there friendly?
 3. What is his friend's name?
 4. Does she visit Ambrose?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words;

dif - - - - -

wis - -

ani - - - -

car - - - -

Chapter 34.

Now that Ambrose is a little older and a little wiser about things on the farm, he sometimes visits a cat that lives on another farm not too far away. The farm where his friend lives is not very different from his own but he has to be more careful there. The dogs and other animals there are not very friendly and Ambrose always checks to see if they are around before he walks across the farm yard to meet his friend Ginger. Ginger is about the same age and the same size as Ambrose. They often stroll around Ginger's farm and she shows him all the places that she likes to play. Sometimes Ginger comes to visit Ambrose at his farm but not very often.

Chapter 35.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. How often does he visit Ginger?
 2. Does he visit much in Spring?
 3. What's going on in Spring?
 4. When is hay made?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words;

fr - - - -

pl - - - - -

ma - - - - -

gr - - - - -

Chapter 35.

In Winter when it gets dark early and the days are cold and wet, Ambrose visits his friend Ginger nearly every day. In Spring when the days are longer and warmer, the farm is a very busy place and he visits her less often. There is always a lot going on then. Crops are being planted and fields are being ploughed. Lambs are being born and all the machines are being got ready for their busiest time. In Summer, when the days are hot and dusty, early crops begin to come in and hay is being made to feed the animals when the grass stops growing. There are lots and lots of mice around the farm buildings and Ambrose is kept very busy indeed.

Chapter 36.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. What was going on?
 2. Where was he sitting at the time?
 3. What was he waiting for?
 4. What did he do?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words;

mor - - - -

run - - - -

wan - - - - -

sl - - - - -

Chapter 36.

One day when Ambrose was sitting on the stable roof waiting for the farmer's wife to put his morning meal out in the porch, he noticed something odd going on over by the duck pond. The ducks were making more noise than usual. The chickens which were usually quiet at this time of day, were screeching and running around inside the wire fence that kept them from wandering all over the farm. Ambrose knew that the chickens would not run around and make such a din if there was not something wrong. Forgetting all about his morning meal for the moment, he slipped quickly to the ground and made his way round the farm yard.

Chapter 37.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. How did he know what was going on?
 2. What were the chickens doing?
 3. Was there a hole in the fence?
 4. How did he spot the hole?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words;

sou - - -

wil - - -

fe - - -

in - - - -

Chapter 37.

The sounds coming from inside the chicken huts made Ambrose sure that something quite wrong was going on there. The chickens outside the huts were very frightened and still running around wildly but from inside the huts, he could hear sounds that could only mean that a fight was going on. Keeping very low to the ground, Ambrose crept all the way round the fence trying to see what was going on inside the huts. He came to a hole in the fence which he knew should not be there. It was a small hole and very low to the ground. One of the chickens was trying madly to push its way through so that it could get away from whatever was going on.

Chapter 38.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. Did the chicken get through the wire?
 2. Where did Ambrose hide?
 3. What other sound was there?
 4. What do you think it was?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words;

fri - - - - -

pl - - -

bum - - - -

str - -

Chapter 38.

When the frightened chicken had pushed itself free of the wire, Ambrose slipped quickly through the fence and dashed across the grass into the small space under the hut. From the safety of his hiding place, he could hear the chickens inside the hut, screeching and flying around, sometimes even bumping into the walls of the hut. He could also hear another sound, something like the feet of a small dog running around. Ambrose knew that none of the farm dogs would go near the chickens and that even if they did, the chickens were not afraid of them. He knew that sometimes stray dogs came on to the farm and caused damage. Perhaps it was one of them.

Chapter 39.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. Did he go up the ramp?
 2. What did he see?
 3. What did it look like?
 4. Did the fox spot Ambrose?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words;

cr - - -

ch - - - - -

dan - - - - -

po - - - - -

Chapter 39.

Ambrose crept slowly out of his safe hiding place and then up the ramp that led to the small door into the chicken hut. At first he could only see lots of feathers flying around in the air and the white of the chickens dashing to and fro. Then he spotted the small brown dog but it was not like any dog Ambrose had seen before. It had small round eyes, a long pointed snout with long pointed teeth. Ambrose had never seen a fox before or he would have known that this was a dangerous and hungry wild animal. The fox did not notice Ambrose at first while it was chasing the chickens around the hut trying to catch one of them.

Chapter 40.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS.

1. Was he afraid?
 2. What was the fox doing?
 3. What did it do when it saw him?
 4. Did the farmer shoot the fox?
-

POST READING SUGGESTIONS.

Find these words;

go - - -

qu - - -

dr - - - - -

scr - - - -

Chapter 40.

Ambrose was a little afraid but quite sure that no dog was going to attack the animals on his farm. He arched his back and let out a loud screech just as the fox grabbed one of the chickens in its mouth. The fox dropped the chicken quickly and turned to stare at Ambrose. Then with one dash, it pushed its way past him and made off at high speed through the hole in the fence. As it ran, Ambrose heard a loud bang as the farmer fired at it with his shotgun. Ambrose never found out if the farmer hit the fox but he did know that the farmer and his wife were both very pleased with him. For Ambrose, it was all part of the exciting business of being a farm cat.

